

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF THE INDIAN COMMISSION, AND THE REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY BISHOP OF NIOBRARA.

YOUR Committee, to whom was referred the Second Annual Report of the Indian Commission, and First Annual Report of the Missionary Bishop of Niobrara, have been deeply impressed with the manifest signs of God's blessing upon the efforts made by our Church in behalf of the elevation and the evangelization of the Indian. The election and Consecration of a Bishop specially for this hitherto neglected people, has placed our Church, more than ever, prominently before the world as the benefactor, protector, and defender of this injured and oppressed Race. Great results were predicted from this venture of Faith, and these results have already commenced to appear. In the awakening of sympathy for the work throughout the whole land, in the increased contributions of the generous, in the stimulating to philanthropic activity other religious people, in the plans proposed and being carried out for Christian Schools of high grade among those Indians entrusted to our care, we may discern some of the beneficial results of the Indian Episcopate.

Your Committee cannot but express gratification at the disposition displayed by some of the Diocesan and Missionary Bishops, within whose Jurisdiction Indians are living, to call Bishop Hare to their care and oversight. It would be well indeed if most or all of the Indians in the country, accessible to the ministrations of the Church, could be brought under his charge, except perhaps those in Minnesota, whose loving Bishop must always remain the Indian's peculiar Friend and Champion.

Since the Church has thus inaugurated the new principle of sending a Bishop to a Race, it would seem to be proper (if, and when, it can be constitutionally and canonically accomplished), that this Bishop should be the Father and the Overseer of the whole Race in this land.

Your Committee approve heartily of all the plans proposed by Bishop Hare and the Indian Commission, for the carrying on of the great work which has been committed to their hands. It would be difficult to suggest any particulars wherein these plans could be improved, and your Committee, in common with the whole Church, have such full confidence in the wisdom and judgment of the Bishop and his efficient co-workers, that they may well leave the whole subject in their hands without any suggestions of their own.

The call of the Bishop for means to establish and put into operation the Boarding School at the Yankton Agency, is one that ought to meet with a hearty response from the whole Church. In no other way can the youths of the Nation be so speedily and so permanently brought under Christian influence. The opportunity afforded by such a School for the training of a native Ministry is so unquestioned that to dwell upon this topic is altogether needless.

Surely the friends of the Indian, the friends of humanity, and all those who love CHRIST and His Word and His Church, ought to feel happy and thankful as they contrast the present condition of Missionary effort among this people with what it was a few years since, when one Bishop, one Presbyter and one Layman were almost the only ones in our Communion who were willing to pray and work and give for the Indian's temporal and spiritual welfare. Now, the helpers in the good cause are a great army, with recruits from every part of the land.

It may be fairly held that now, since this Indian Mission work has become so important, and has expanded into such unlooked for proportions ; since it calls for and disburses so large an amount of money annually ; since it enjoys the entire services and employs the full time of a Bishop ; since it represents in its benefactions all parts of the Church, and all schools of thought in the Church—it may be fairly held, we say, that it is entitled to an independent organization, and, instead of any longer being a Commission of the Domestic Committee, it should be placed on the same footing as “the work among the Colored People,” and the Foreign Missionary Work. To accomplish this, however, it would be necessary to have canonical action by the next General Convention. Your Committee make the suggestion for the consideration of the members of the Board. For ourselves, we should be inclined to give the proposition our approval.

If the change of status from a Commission of the Domestic Committee to an Indian Committee of the Board of Missions can in any way further the beneficial objects for which the Indian Helpers labor ; if the change of status can in any degree add weight or power to the Cause itself ; if indeed it is desired by the Bishop and his chief co-operators ; then the change ought to be made.

It may be that the present arrangement was designed to be merely provisional and tentative, and that the intention was to create an independent Committee as soon as the work had fairly passed the border line of the mere experimental, and shown itself to be real and permanent. If so, has not the time come when we can judiciously place this work in the same relation to the Church at large, as that of the Domestic Work, or the Foreign Work, or “the Work among the Colored People?”

In concluding their Report, your Committee offer the following Resolutions:

- I. *Resolved*, That this Board most cordially commends the Indian

Missionary work of the Church to the sympathies and the prayers of God's people throughout the whole country, and asks for it the generous help of all who love the LORD JESUS CHRIST in its behalf.

2. That this Board particularly recommends St. Paul's School at the Yankton Agency to the consideration of the charitable, as a worthy object of their benefactions.

ROBERT H. CLARKSON.

C. H. HALL.

E. A. WASHBURN.

BENJAMIN STARK.

PETER E. DEMILL.

